

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2011

Present: Cllr J Davis Vice Chairman, Cllr R Bradbury, & Cllr Mrs J Graham.
In attendance: Mrs H Bourner –Clerk
Mr J McKenzie -Thrupton Times and Village Correspondent
PC Roger Kitson
TVBC Phil Lashbrook

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

767 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Milner-Williams Chairman, and Cllr M Windsor.

Public Participation

768 There were no members of public present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

769 There were no expressions of interest.

MINUTES

770 **Resolved:** Subject to an amendment at paragraph 748 regarding the reporting of a burglary in Stanbury Close, the minutes of the meetings held on 5 October 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

Grit Bins

771 The clerk confirmed the three further grit bins requested had still not arrived.

Re-location of Litter Bin

772 The clerk reported that the litter bin from beside the vehicular access gate on the village green had been successfully moved to the play area at the sports field. TVBC had removed the old stanchion but it could not be reused, so had installed the bin with a new one. The bin will have to be wheeled to the bus shelter every two weeks for emptying as the refuse truck does not pass the sports field. The clerk has the necessary key to release the bin from the stanchion.

Street Lighting.

773 Despite requests the clerk confirmed she had not received the promised data from Southern Electric regarding cost recovery, and energy efficiency. The clerk agreed to press for details.

Thrupton Down

774 The clerk confirmed she had logged the necessary report regarding the footpath at Thrupton Down which required clearing of overgrown weeds and debris. An acknowledgment had been received confirming the work would be carried out in the next 2 months.

Library Shelves

775 Additional shelves have now been installed in the new telephone box library.

Village Green Maintenance

776 The clerk confirmed the final instalment of the contract for the maintenance was about to be paid. Those councillors present asked the clerk to write to Mr Welch thanking him for the splendid work carried out and asking him to complete the final cut and leaf clearance agreed earlier in the year.

Financial Support of Toddler group.

777 The clerk had been copied in on a series of emails from the toddler group requesting financial help with the costs of hall hire. Cllr Davis confirmed the Village Association had agreed to give this help.

Cllr Bradbury said he felt that this group was very important to the village and that the parish Council should support it if necessary. Cllr Davis said he would establish details ensuring the Village Association would give the support, if not the matter would be brought back before the parish Council.

Repairs

778 Cllr Graham confirmed the repairs to the bus shelter were continuing. The clerk has spoken to Fred Hopkins about repairs to the seats and he will arrange to meet Cllr Davis to discuss the matter. The problem with the twisted chains on the swings had been resolved by Cllr Windsor.

County and Borough Councillor Reports

779 TVBC Phil Lashbrook reported on a complaint received regarding high value cars speeding through Thruxton Down. The matter was now under police enquiry. He also said the caravans present on the land subject to planning applications for a showmans site had been inspected by the enforcement officer and he was convinced these were simply being used for storage. The situation will continue to be monitored.

On another matter he reported that after an enquiry was made, a retrospective application for change of use of land, and to build stable blocks on the land adjoining houses at the end on Stanbury Road, just in the parish of Fyfield, had been submitted. The clerk reported concerns expressed by Cllr Windsor regarding the prominence of the site which stuck out in the rural landscape particularly from the Fyfield Church path, and from the road between Fyfield and Thruxton. The clerk also reported concerns that caravans on the site were clearly being used as living accommodation.

Finally Cllr Lashbrook said he had been trying to obtain details of the gritting program for the A303 for this winter as there had been so many problems last year. So far he had been unsuccessful but he was now escalating the enquiry.

PC Kitson was also given the opportunity to speak at this point. He said he had been particularly keen to talk to the Parish Council about a new initiative called speed watch. This scheme involved a parish obtaining a speed gun and local volunteers being trained in the use of it. Details of offenders were then passed to the police who either wrote to or visited offenders to educate them. The down side was the cost of £3000 per gun, although it was possible to share equipment and therefore costs between parishes. The general view was that while the scheme was indeed a very good idea, the problem in the village with speeding was not sufficient to warrant this amount of expenditure, although the matter would be kept under review.

Planning

780 The following decisions by TVBC were noted: None

781 **Resolved:** that the Planning advisory committees recommendations on the following applications be endorsed:

11/02236/TREEN – fell 12 leylandii Bridge Cottage- support

11/02284/TREEN- fell 1 ash, pollard 1 willow Forge Cottage- support.

Cllr Davis confirmed the appeal against the installation of gates at 24 Stanbury Road had been dealt with by the Secretary of State and the decision to allow the gates to remain was noted.

FINANCE

782 The bank balance as at 14 October 2011 was as follows:

Lloyds TSB £6995.54
Lloyds reserve £11000

Payments

783 **Resolved:** that the following payments be approved and signing of cheques authorised:

Anton DO Supp	£24.80
Thruyton WMH	£16.00
H Bournier Oct salary	£249.36
H Bournier Oct exp.	£14.67
Mr. R Welch Oct	£71.76
Cllr Milner-William	£10.80
Luke Bournier	£60.00
Fred Hopkins	£62.00

A first draft of the 2012/13 budget was considered by Councillors. Some items of expenditure were reviewed and it was agreed that the Precept for next year would not be increased. An amended budget would be circulated for Councillors to agree at the December meeting.

Attendance at Events

784 A report regarding traffic at the Goodmans site was noted. The meeting had been attended by Cllr Milner-Williams.

Correspondence

785 The clerk noted several items of correspondence recently received: - a letter from the Mayor of Andover asking that the village observe 2 minutes silence on Remembrance Day, an extract from the completed survey regarding well being, and details of building and lighting a beacon to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Davis also noted a leaflet regarding the digital switchover. He said he would be very happy to assist any elderly residents who were struggling with the retuning required. TVBC said they had a special pack for volunteers and would send this to Cllr Davis. Any resident requiring help should contact the clerk on 773976.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

786 The clerk noted a letter from TVBC apologising for not yet invoicing the parish for the costs of elections in May, and an approach from a local landowner regarding the building of affordable homes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7 December 2011.